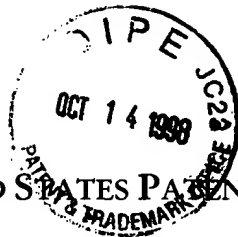


#9



PATENT APPLICATION
DOCKET NUMBER P3875 CON

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants:

CORNELIUS BORST *ET AL.*

Invention:

METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR TEMPORARILY
IMMOBILIZING A LOCAL AREA OF TISSUE

Application No. 08/915,678

Filed August 21, 1997

Examiner: Robert L. Nasser, Jr.

RECEIVED

OCT 26 1998

Group 3700

Information Disclosure Statement Under 37 CFR §1.97

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, DC 20231

Dear Sir:

Form PTO-1449, and a copy of the reference listed on the form, are enclosed. The reference is cited because the applicants believe it should be considered in the same respects as the Examiner has already considered the Bennetti *et al.* reference (US 5,727,569). Note that the Wright reference has a 35 USC §102(e) date only five days prior to that of the Benetti *et al.* reference. There has been a non-final Examiner's Action in the case but not a final action or a notice of allowance. The cited reference issued less than three months prior to today. I certify that, to my knowledge after making reasonable inquiry, no item of information contained in this statement was known to any individual designated in 37 CFR §1.56(c) more than three months prior to today. Please consider this reference in the application. If you have any questions, please contact me at your convenience.

Very truly yours,

Peter Forrest
Registration Number 33,235
Attorney for Applicants

October 13, 1998

MEDTRONIC, INC.
7000 Central Avenue NE
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55432 USA
(612) 514-6402 (direct voice line) or (612) 514-3323 (direct facsimile)
peter.forrest@medtronic.com (e-mail)